

AMD17-063 4/14/08

Bell, Leanne S (DOT)

From: Scholl, James W (DOT)
To: Monday, April 14, 2008 8:47 AM
Subject: Bell, Leanne S (DOT)
Attachments: FW: STIP Comment
STIP comment08 jfa.doc

Please log in this e- mail and attachment, Thanks!

From: Jonathan Anderson [mailto:jonathan.f.anderson@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 13, 2008 1:29 PM
To: DOT STIP
Subject: STIP Comment

I have attached my comment on the STIP in a word file. Please let me know if you have any problems with the file.

Thank you very much,

Jonathan

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JONATHAN ANDERSON
Juneau Assembly Member District 2
100 Jerry Drive
Juneau Alaska, 99801
789-6883

We must recognize the full human equality of all of our people -- before God, before the law, and in the councils of government. We must do this, not because it is economically advantageous -- although it is; not because the laws of God command it -- although they do; not because people in other lands wish it so. We must do it for the single and fundamental reason that it is the right thing to do.
Robert Kennedy, June 6, 1966

April 13, 2008

Commissioner von Scheben:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Draft Amendment #17 of the 2006-2009 STIP. I appreciate the difficulty of allocating scarce dollars to the very great transportation needs we have within the state. There are many worthy projects, and I realize you have many priorities and constituencies.

You have already received a letter from the CBJ City Manager noting that the Gastineau Crossing (also known as the Juneau North Douglas Crossing) is "CBJ's #1 transportation priority." As an elected member of the Juneau Assembly, I would like to emphasize the importance of this project to Juneau.

Juneau's population is distributed across Douglas island and the mainland. Because of geography and the presence of the Tongass National Forest, land in the Borough suitable for development is extremely limited. The one area with potentially developable land is on the west side of Douglas island, accessed from the North Douglas Highway. The economic future of Juneau is critically dependent on growth into that area of West Douglas.

To this end, in 2007 the Borough Assembly adopted the West Douglas Conceptual Plan which lays out a responsible plan for Juneau's growth, and which has the support of a wide cross section of the Juneau population.

However, there is a problem. Currently only a single bridge connects Juneau to Douglas and DOTPF studies note that the bridge is close to its carrying capacity. Future development on Douglas island is limited by the capacity of that single span, as well as the mainland intersection from that bridge (10th and Egan).

In addition to this economic choke point, Juneau's public safety is also threatened by a single linear connection. There is only one possible route from Douglas to downtown Juneau to its Hospital and on to its airport and ferry terminal. Should that route be damaged or blocked, Juneau's population would be prevented from accessing critically essential services.

A bridge across the Gastineau channel in the vicinity of Lemon Creek would resolve a number of problems. It would first of all create an alternative transportation corridor to essential services. Second, it would facilitate the opening of critically needed land on West Douglas for responsible economic development. Third it would save thousands of gallons of gasoline a day, reducing a trip from North Douglas to the Juneau airport from 20 miles to approximately 2 miles.

As mentioned above, the Juneau Assembly has identified the Gastineau or North Douglass crossing as its #1 transportation priority. A West Douglas conceptual plan has been passed, but cannot be advanced until the transportation issues are resolved. Juneau

has further identified a community preferred alternative in the vicinity of Vanderbilt boulevard near Sunny Point. An environmental study was begun by DOTPF several years ago, but remains incomplete. What is needed is a state commitment to the community identified priority.

STIP objectives of System Development, Economic Development, Safety, Security, Environment and Quality of Life, and Good Government will all be advanced by the Gastineau Crossing project..

To allow Juneau's economic development, facilitate critical safety needs, and reduce our carbon footprint, please include the Gastineau Crossing project in the STIP.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Anderson
District 2 Assembly Member
City and Borough of Juneau